

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

In the Office Action, dated December 16, 2003, claims 1 – 4, 7 – 11, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Coltrain et al. (US 5,010,128).

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kumar et al. (US 5,695,873).

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 12 and 13 recite allowable subject matter.

Summary of Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13, and canceled claims 2 – 12, and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1 and 13 are presently pending.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, claims 1 – 4, 7 – 11, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Coltrain et al. (US 5,010,128).

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kumar et al. (US 5,695,873). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of all claims for the following reasons.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation of dependent claims 2, 7, 8, 9 and 12. Claim 12 is allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, amended claim 1 now is allowable.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 13 is allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above with regard to independent claim 1 from which it depends.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant does not acquiesce that patentability resides in any single feature, exactly as expressed in the claims or as described in the specification, or that each and every feature of a claim is required for patentability. Furthermore, Applicant does not acquiesce that the description of features in the claims, given in the stated reasons for allowance, is necessarily accurate with respect to the features recited in the allowed claims.

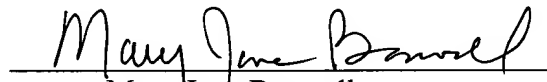
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 16, 2004

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